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## FOREIGN AND INSULAR.

### AFRICA.

#### *Report from Cape Colony—Examination for plague and plague-infected rodents.*

*Report of the medical officer of health on the state of plague in Cape Colony during week ended March 26, 1904.*

*Port Elizabeth.*—No case of plague was discovered during the week. At the plague hospital 6 cases remain under treatment. Plague-infected rodents continued to be found in the town.

*East London.*—No case of plague was discovered during the week. Plague-infected rodents continued to be found in the town.

*Other places.*—At Uitenhage, Queenstown, King Williams Town, and Knysna no case of plague was discovered in man or animal during the week.

*Cape Town and harbor board area.*—Three hundred and two rats were examined during the week. None were found affected with plague.

A. JOHN GREGORY,  
*Medical Officer of Health for the Colony.*

### AUSTRALIA.

#### *Report from Brisbane—Plague—Examination of rodents for plague infection.*

Consul-General Bray, at Melbourne, forwards the following, received under date of March 18 and 25, from Alfred Deakin, department of external affairs:

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH, QUEENSLAND,  
*Brisbane, March 5, 1904.*

*Plague bulletin No. 4, for week ending 12 o'clock noon, Saturday, March 5, 1904.*

No case of plague has occurred in this State since the 18th February ultimo (16 days), and the 5 patients at the plague hospital are now convalescent.

The last plague-infected rat was found yesterday.

### RATS.

*Report for week ending March 4, 1904.*

Rats examined at bacteriological institute.....	465
Plague-infected .....	4
Total number of rats destroyed.....	2, 204
Total number mice destroyed .....	202

BRISBANE, *March 12, 1904.**Plague bulletin No. 5 for week ending 12 o'clock noon, Saturday, March 12, 1904.*

Twenty-three days have elapsed since the last case of plague occurred in this State.

The 5 patients in the plague hospital who were reported in last week's bulletin to be convalescent will be discharged on Monday next, the 14th instant.

The last plague-infected rat was found in Brisbane on the 9th instant, and the previous one on the 7th instant.

## RATS.

*Report for week ending March 11, 1904.*

Rats examined at bacteriological institute.....	460
Plague-infected rats .....	3
Mice examined at bacteriological institute.....	9
Infected mice .....	0
Total number of rats destroyed during the week.....	2, 214
Total number of mice destroyed during the week.....	1, 261

BRISBANE, *March 19, 1904.**Bulletin No. 6, for week ending 12 o'clock noon, Saturday, March 19, 1904.*

A period of thirty days has elapsed since the last case of plague occurred in this State. The whole of the patients have been discharged from the plague hospital, and that institution has been closed.

The last plague-infected rats (2) were found in Brisbane on the 18th instant, and the previous 1 on the 16th instant.

*Cairns.*—The health officer for Cairns has reported some 8 cases of suspected plague during the last few weeks. From the evidence submitted to me (smear preparations) I am satisfied that at least one of these cases, viz, a schoolboy, aged 8 years, who died on February 16 last, was a case of true bubonic plague; but in the cases (4) kept under observation and now convalescent, the bacteriological evidence was negative. The case of a Chinaman and another patient reported by the local press here on March 9 as cases of true plague have since proved not to be plague, and these cases were never reported to me by the Cairns health officer as even suspicious.

Doctor O'Brien, the health officer of the department of public health, is at present making searching inquiry at Cairns into the alleged outbreak.

*Destruction of rats, Brisbane. Report for week ending March 18, 1904.*

Rats examined at bacteriological institute.....	399
Plague-infected rats .....	4
Mice examined at the bacteriological institute.....	36
Infected mice.....	Nil.
Total number of rats destroyed during the week .....	1, 441
Total number of mice destroyed during the week.....	1, 844

B. BURNETT HAM, M. D.,  
*Commissioner of Public Health.*

P. S.—An additional case of plague occurred at Cairns, and was reported on March 22. The patient, a black gin, died the same evening.